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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Results of the emergency farm labor program and reports on food production are prominent in this week's summary.

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CONNECTICUT
September 7, 1943

Farm labor.-About 7,000 additional workers will be required this fall for apple, potato, and late vegetable harvest. Half of these will be needed for McIntosh apple crop, which is almost equal to last year's large production. Yield of later varieties is much lighter. Potato acreage is 39 percent above 1942. New Haven and Windham Counties, important apple areas, report pickers enrolling in encouraging numbers, and expect to have enough labor to do the job.

State law passed last spring permits schools to excuse boys and girls from classes to help with farm harvest. Farmers are counting heavily on schools as source of help; also looking to office and factory workers, professional and business people, and housewives for work full or part time. People with harvest jobs on farms will be allowed additional gasoline for driving from homes to farms.

On September 4 most of remaining Victory Farm Volunteer camps closed. State held 14 such camps this summer with average enrollment of 480. Nearly 800 boys and girls lived in camp for different lengths of time, and 250 to 300 others spent summer on farms where they worked. Two camps for apple pickers will continue - one for boys, one for women.

Over 6,000 workers have been placed on Connecticut farms since labor program started last May. About 5,400 were seasonal and remainder full-time. County offices were unable to fill orders for 360 additional full-time workers. About half of seasonal workers were boys and girls. All seasonal farm labor demands, except for 7,000 needed this fall, have been met. Help obtained for farmers has not always been kind they wanted but for most part has filled their needs.

The 1,100 Jamaicans brought in last May for tobacco farms will be transferred soon to potato harvest. Efforts to obtain 250 more Jamaicans for

potato and apple harvests were unsuccessful. Jamaicans sent to State have been great help. Most were assigned to tobacco farms but growers were cooperative in releasing them for short periods for emergency work on vegetable farms or elsewhere.

Potato crop.-In spite of over one-third increase in potato acreage, crop probably will be smaller than last year's. State-wide survey of fields where digging is under way indicates crop will be 1 to 1½ million bushels below earlier estimate. Contributing factors were drought, aphids, flea beetles, and weeds, in addition to light set of crop throughout State. However, Irish Cobblers so far dug are of high quality. Irony of situation is that Extension and State War Council have been campaigning for more storage facilities for what promised to be bumper crop.

Livestock nutrition.-Wartime livestock nutrition problems were discussed at school held at Storrs by departments of dairy, livestock, and poultry husbandry. Extension specialists presented various aspects of situation. Nearly 100 feed dealers attended. Meetings may become annual event.

Pullet disease.-Extension poultrymen arranged for purchase of carload of molasses to be used by poultrymen in treating pullet disease, which is unusually prevalent in epidemic form throughout State. Outbreaks from every county have been diagnosed in animal disease laboratory at Storrs; field diagnosis made on hundreds of flocks.

Fertilizer.-Supply of mixed fertilizers for Connecticut farmers will be adequate for food production next year, but grades to select from will be fewer. New grades contain more nitrogen than those of previous season. Nine grades are available in State; three limited to tobacco and other six for general crops. Though supplies for new season are larger, farmers are warned that there is no surplus, and probable increased production will require efficient use of available fertilizer. Early delivery of fertilizer to farms and its use on hayland, pastures, and cover crops this fall will help to ease distribution.

Tax schools.-Series of extension county meetings is planned for early October to give farmers information on Federal income tax.

WYOMING

September 1, 1943

Labor.-Most important contribution during August was assistance given on labor. Extension emergency labor division and all county agents were on alert to meet demands of farmers and ranchmen. Contracts have been signed for work by Italian war prisoners in potato, bean, and beet fields in three counties. Goshen County will have 270 of these workers; Laramie, 190; and Converse, 90. Workers for Goshen County are expected to start by middle of September.

Peak of demand for hay and grain harvest labor has been passed, and little or no loss of these crops is expected. Record of 336 workers from Oklahoma is excellent. They saved hay crop in leading range counties. One prominent ranchman paid them high tribute in a local paper. These workers will be returned to Oklahoma September 15, as agreed upon when they were recruited.

Work of Mexicans also has been very satisfactory. About 300 were used in beet, bean, and grain harvest. Additional 425 will arrive soon to help in beet and potato harvest.

MINNESOTA

September 15, 1943

Farm labor.-Up to September 3, Minnesota farm-help program had made 74,633 placements on farms, exclusive of foreign workers. Of total, 51,463 were men, 2,539 women and girls, 20,078 boys, and 553 farm couples. On September 3, unfilled orders totaled 994, an average of about 11 per county. This was drop of 138 from previous week, and a trifle more than one-third of peak of 2,739, which was reached in week ended August 6.

Early in September, 200 Italian war prisoners were brought into State, half of them to help harvest potatoes, onions, and other truck crops, and other half to pick sweet corn seed. Additional 437 Mexicans are being imported for work in sugar beet and potato harvest. This makes total of about 1,785 foreign workers, Mexicans and Jamaicans, brought in this summer by Minnesota farm-help service. Monthly and year-round workers continue in demand, though in lesser numbers than earlier in year.

Fall planning conference.-All State extension workers called in for conference September 1 and 2 as preliminary to state-wide program planning. General program streamlined to emphasize important jobs such as food production (with feed conservation as No. 1 factor) and food utilization. Specialists assigned to work with county agent leaders in giving assistance to program planning at county level.

Food production.-War food production goals to be gained through emphasizing severe culling of unproductive animals; improved farm management to make better use of feed; conservation of feed for maximum production of milk, eggs, meat; and shift to crops such as corn and alfalfa which assure maximum production per acre.

4-H campaign.-State campaign for 1944 4-H enrollment to be staged during week of November 6. Preliminary meetings will be held in counties before that time. Campaign will be sparked by wide distribution of new circular advertising opportunities for war service in next year's 4-H program. Neighborhood leaders will encourage 4-H organization locally.

Total of 2,000 4-H members took part in Minnesota State Fair stressing food production and utilization. Principal emphasis on Victory Garden results, food preservation, and part 4-H people are playing on home front.

Home care of sick.-Home demonstration program launched for fall months featuring home care of the sick in war emergency. Home demonstration agents are trained to present three lessons to local leaders selected by neighborhood groups, existing community organizations, or any other rural group wishing to take part. Leaders will carry this information to their home groups.

Neighborhood leaders.-Neighborhood leaders assist in all major programs. Specific assignments include spread of information on vegetable and fruit storage, and cooperation with WPB in State-wide salvage program aimed at

getting every possible bit of iron scrap off farms. Specialist assistance given agents in improving their neighborhood leader organization and putting it to effective use.

Sheep improvement.-Sheep program carried forward with State-wide campaign to improve sires. Ram exchange and sale days to be held in 50 counties. Management practices, including use of phenothiazine, discussed in connection with ram sale.

Legume seed.-State-wide publicity and local action campaigns aimed at maximum supply of legume seed. Falling off in alfalfa acreages counteracted by urging farmers to thresh own seed as far as possible and carry over old alfalfa fields that may still be good in 1944.

New oats.-Fall and winter campaign launched to encourage a change-over on Minnesota farms to new Vicland and Tama oat varieties. Extension will direct publicity campaign; prepare leaflets, and work with crop associations and commercial firms in distributing literature to make this campaign as thorough as possible.